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THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE
KOA, HONOLULU, O. S.

REPORT

— OF —

HIS EX. W. N. ARMSTRONG,

HIS HAWAIIAN MAJESTY'S

COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION

Hawaiian Gazette Print.

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REPORT
OF
HIS EX. W. N. ARMSTRONG,
HIS HAWAIIAN MAJESTY'S
Commissioner of Immigration.

TO HIS EX. H. A. P. CARTER,
President of the Board of Immigration.

SIR:—On the 14th of January last, I was instructed by you to investigate, in connection with His Majesty's travel around the world, the subject of Immigration, and you directed my attention to the following points for careful observation:

First—That of securing a class of immigrants who might become a desirable population for this Kingdom, and at the same time furnish the labor which is required.

Second—That of correcting the disparity in the proportion of the sexes among the Hawaiian people.

Third—That of securing a sufficient and reliable supply of laborers.

Fourth—That of obtaining statistics and information on the subject of immigration.

I do report as follows :

I have visited Japan, China, the Malay Peninsula, the "Straits Settlements," the East Indies, some of the European countries—especially Portugal—and in each country have investigated the subject of emigration to this Kingdom, both in its bearings on the question of labor and on the question of

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population. The official position, which I held as a member of His Majesty's suite, gave me excellent facilities in rapidly pursuing my investigations. It enabled me to obtain interviews with persons in high authority, and to obtain access to records without delay. This was the case especially in India. The Government in Calcutta having been informed of His Majesty's proposed visit, and his desire to obtain information on the subject of emigration without delay, made such arrangements that on His arrival the official papers were placed before me for full examination, and the persons who were best able to give me reliable information were in attendance. So cordially and fully was this information given that my short stay in India was sufficiently long to enable me to obtain the facts which mainly determine the question of immigration.

I will consider the subject of East Indian or coolie labor first, because it has been more prominently before the Hawaiian planters.

I desire here to state that I concur fully in the views and sentiments presented by you in your reply, dated March 9, 1881, to a "Memorial on East Indian Emigration," excepting only the statement made by you that the Indian Government is opposed to emigration. Recent interviews with that Government convince me that they will not oppose it, if conducted under strict treaties and conventions. I believe that there has been, latterly, a change of opinion in this respect. In all other statements made in your reply I agree with you, and will avoid a repetition of the matters considered by you.

Before reaching India I found that the subject of coolie labor was familiar to English statesmen in the East. In Singapore the subject presented a very interesting phase, owing to a difference of opinion between the Colonial Governor and the Secretary of State for India. Singapore is the leading one of the "Straits Settlements," Sir Frederick Weld is the Governor. Adjoining this colony are several "Protected States," *i. e.* States which allow, by convention, an English official to reside near its government and act as an "adviser." It may be readily inferred that the "advice" of the Resident is regarded as a command. These "Protected States" are

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sorely in need of laborers. With a view to obtaining Indian coolies the Governor of Singapore induced the Governor of Madras to send Mr. McGregor, the Protector of Emigrants in the Madras Presidency, to these States with directions to fully investigate the subject of emigration. He did so, and made an elaborate report, urging the propriety, safety, and necessity of immigration. Upon this, the Governor of Singapore, Sir F. Weld, wrote to Lord Kimberly, Secretary of State for the Colonies, endorsing the views of Mr. McGregor, and urging the great benefit which would arise to these States if immigration was allowed. He said, "My opinion is that "there is no reason why the interests and welfare of the Indian emigrant should not be as well secured in the native "Protected States, under their present administration as "within our own settlements." Lord Kimberly, under date of November 20, 1880, says: "There is no doubt that the material "prosperity of the native States would be advanced by such "an increase in the supply of labor, as could be afforded by "a systematic immigration of Indian coolies ; but looking to "the serious difficulties in the way of securing proper treatment "of the coolies in the States which are not British territory, I "do not feel justified in recommending to the Secretary of "State for India that the experiment should be tried."

You will therefore perceive that the views taken by the Colonial Department, and those taken by the Indian Department do not coincide. While passing by the Strait's Settlements I met officials, and planters who were familiar with Indian coolie labor in the settlements, these coolies being generally "free emigrants," though there are many working under "contract" and protected by British laws. The coolies do not understand the duties of the "protector." They believe he is put in office to back them up in any complaint. The planters are dragged off to distant Courts on frivolous pretences, and they urge that they are at the mercy of a despot. But they accept the situation, as they can obtain labor from no other place. These planters generally hold the opinion that Chinese labor is much superior to Indian ; some say that "one Chinaman is equal to three coolies." But they are rather afraid

of the Chinese, because they refuse to make long contracts, and, moreover, are intractable.

On my arrival in Calcutta, Mr. M. Macauley, one of the Secretaries of the Bengal Government, at once put his services at the disposal of His Majesty, and brought me in communication with Dr. Grant, the authorized "Protector of Emigrants," under the Indian laws. It is the business of the Protector to see that the laws regarding emigration are enforced. Dr. Grant's experience covered every point on the subject of coolie emigration. His reports on this subject are of great value, clear and exhaustive. Both Mr. Macauley and Dr. Grant encouraged, instead of discouraged, emigration to these Islands. But I was informed that no steps could be taken by us towards securing emigrants until we had entered into a "convention" with the Imperial Government in England, as the Indian Government did not enter into direct relations with foreign governments. On reaching England, I was promptly accorded an interview with Sir Louis Mallet, Under Secretary of State for India. He informed me that there was no objection to the emigration of coolies to the Hawaiian Islands, but that it would be necessary to enter into a "convention on the subject," as other countries had done; that in order to do so, laws should be passed by the Hawaiian Government similar to those passed by other countries; that these laws would be submitted to the Indian Government, and, if regarded as satisfactory, a convention would be entered into. One of the permanent secretaries of the India office called my attention to the fact that the subject had already been discussed with you, when you represented our government at the Court of St. James, and that a similar statement had been made to you; but that no intimation had yet been made that such laws had been passed. On my suggesting that in view of the kind treatment accorded by us to emigrant laborers, such an elaborate convention might be dispensed with in our case, I was promptly informed that the necessity for such a convention was imperative; that the Imperial Government did not consider this requirement harsh or unkind; that unless there was such a convention and "protection" the most salutary laws might remain

without force, and British subjects be made the objects of most inhuman treatment; that if foreign countries wished to employ large numbers of British subjects, it was only reasonable that a British representative should be present to see that the laws were enforced.

It will be evident to you that any modification, in our favor, of the requirements of the present conventions existing between Great Britain and other countries, would be immediately followed by a demand for modification by other countries; that the kind treatment now accorded to emigrants might not be continued; that the Indian coolies are weak and ignorant, and are considered the "wards" of the British nation, and that the settled policy of a great and powerful nation will not be changed at the request of the Hawaiian Government. Moreover, the strict laws demanded by the Imperial Government, including the "protector" provisions, extend to the British Colonies, and any exception made in favor of the Hawaiian Government would be quite inconsistent. The Hawaiian Government makes no distinctions in favor of any nation, in the matter of native seamen, for it considers its laws on that subject just and reasonable. So the Imperial Government considers the terms it exacts from foreign countries, as a condition of obtaining weak and ignorant British subjects, as just and reasonable.

THE EAST INDIANS AS LABORERS.

There is a great difference of opinion on the value of Indian coolie labor; but I believe the prevailing opinion is, that the Chinese are superior to Indians—at the same time this coolie labor is used with profit in many countries, and it might be used with profit here. All of the Chinese are not superior to all of the Indians; but the emigrant laborers from China are rather superior to the emigrant laborers from India. This is owing to a difference in the social and religious thought of the two countries. The natives of the Coromandel coast, who do work on the plantations of the Malay Peninsula receive double the wages given to the Bengalese coolie in the same

place. But the native from Coromandel will not remain long in the Malay country. He returns home at the end of six months. It is so in Burmah, where thousands of coolies emigrate from India, work a few months and return home.

The East Indians are not an emigrating people. They are not disposed to move from one part of India to another, or from India to foreign countries. Great efforts have been made to move them from crowded parts to the scantily settled portions, but with little effect. The tea planters in the district of Assam have great difficulty in getting laborers, and already find that the high cost of getting them is making, in many instances, the cultivation of the tea plant quite unprofitable. The Indian prefers suffering and famine at home to a removal even to another part of India. (See Indian Famine Report.) During the recent great and distressing famines no considerable numbers offered to leave, or were willing to leave, their homes. A few living near the seaports offered to emigrate.

Across the Bay of Bengal is Burmah, one of the very richest of the Indian dependencies. The demand there for labor is very great, and the wages high. It is so scantily populated that ten millions of people could readily find support within its boundaries. But the Indian coolie, though fully protected, refuses to settle there, preferring rather to cross the Bay of Bengal, labor a few months, and return to India and live at home till his money is spent. The planters in the Malay Peninsula are sorely pressed for labor in working the sugar, coffee and gambier plantations. So are the planters of Sumatra, and comparatively high wages are offered, but the demand is scantily supplied. My own observations on this subject are confirmed by Mr. Collard in his report, published in the *Hawaiian Gazette*, June 27, 1881. The statistics published by the Indian Government for the year 1879, offer strong proof on this point. There are nine foreign agencies for obtaining emigrants in India. These are located in Calcutta, and represent Demarara, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Mauritius, Natal, Fiji, Surinam and Guadaloupe. Each agent, by the requirements of the Indian laws, must be a salaried

officer (Sec. 5). The agents employ "recruiters" to scour the country, and these are licensed by the Indian Government. During the year 1879-80 the 286 "recruiters" obtained 20,000 persons who registered as emigrants in the different districts. Of these 20,000 only 18,000 came into the depots at Calcutta. Ten per centum abandoned their contracts. These 286 "recruiters" were paid \$4 50 for every emigrant finally entered in the depot. The payment of this comparatively large sum shows the difficulties of obtaining emigrants. Although the agencies are located in Calcutta, the capital of the province of Bengal, which holds thirty millions of people, there were only three hundred and six (306) emigrants from that Province. Central India, comprising the great districts of Indore, Maypore, Jubblepore, Raypore, Rewah and Gwalior, furnished only one hundred and twenty altogether. Now here, in an Empire of two hundred and fifty millions of people, in perhaps the poorest country in the world, famine prevailing somewhere nearly every year, the rate of wages not reaching five cents a day in some places, the people must be solicited and begged to emigrate, and only 20,000 are obtained in one year from these millions. Moreover, the licenses of one-seventh part of the "recruiters" were cancelled in this one year for false representation to the proposed emigrant, showing that the recruiters resort to most questionable means to secure people. The coolie is unwilling to go. Miserable and starving as the poorest classes are, they are not greatly tempted by a rise in wages from 4 to 24 cents per day. Experience shows that social, religious and financial reasons, by no means creditable to the coolie, are quite as influential as the prospect of increased wages. No Indian, as a rule, who has any "prospects" at home seems willing to leave. Many who are sickly try emigration, but are refused. The returns to the Imperial Government from the Island of Jamaica show that the medical attendance on the coolie in that most healthy country, averages \$12.50 per head per annum. During the year 1878-9, Demarara, Granada, and St. Lucia did not secure the small number of emigrants they required, and during the year 1879-80 (the last year in which an official return was made), Demarara and Trinidad failed to

secure the few which they required. (See official report to the Indian Government.) At the same time Demarara is quite popular with the returning emigrants. It must be remembered that these foreign States are working for emigrants in India, with well constructed depots, and the business is managed by men highly paid, and who are experienced in all the best and most successful methods of inducing the people to leave home.

As about 20,000 people do emigrate every year, the question arises, from what class do they come? If the people generally are not disposed to emigrate, is it not quite safe to conclude that those who do emigrate are not the most desirable? Dr. Grant informed me that, as a rule, they are from the lowest, the most servile caste in India.

With respect to the expenses connected with Indian emigration, the rates of wages allowed, the terms of service required, I will hereafter present such detailed report as you may require. I will state, however, that in the competition for obtaining coolies, Surinam, for instance, requires only five days work in the week, seven hours each day, and gives a return passage at the end of five years. The official returns from the Island of Jamaica show that the cost of securing the emigrant, of defraying his passage to and fro, amounts to \$280.

EAST INDIANS AS A BASIS OF POPULATION.

In considering this branch of the subject it would be necessary to enter into a most careful consideration of the moral, physical and intellectual condition of the class of East Indians from which the emigrants come. I assume that you and those interested in this question are familiar with the literature on the subject. I shall, therefore, present only a few facts, which in my opinion should settle this question. The Hindoos are divided into *castes*. The lines between these castes are strictly drawn. Every Hindoo child is born in one or the other of them, and remains so for life. The higher castes hold the intelligence and wealth of the country. As you descend through the lower castes, wealth and intelligence decrease until the lowest is reached, which contains the ignorant and those with the least

moral and intellectual power. Ages of social, religious and political despotism have kept this lowest caste in such a miserable condition that that they have become the least valuable "stock" in the Indian population.

Now the majority of the emigrating Indians come from this class. Low as the Indians rank beside the European, the emigrating Indian comes from the lowest class. No doubt some of the upper caste Hindoos do emigrate, but I am informed they are generally under a cloud.

I do not believe that much can be said in favor of the moral condition of these Hindoos. Their religion consists in the worship of numerous hideous, and in many cases, grossly indecent looking idols. Monkeys are worshipped, and temples are constructed for, and are filled with, these Simian divinities. The people in great crowds worship them. I entered a Hindoo temple in Benares, the sacred city. Its dark recesses as well as the open spaces were filled with most hideous and grinning idols, made of wood and bronze. Before an altar the pavement was clotted with the blood of butchered goats. In the court-yard were several "sacred wells." A crowd of men and women were drawing out and using the filthy water. Under the porticoes stood the "sacred" bulls and cows, standing and receiving the worship of the vast crowd of people who thronged the place, while women gathered "sacred" urine in cups. Fat, sleek Brahmin priests stood about receiving offerings of money. I do not believe that these religious rites are in advance of the ancient Hawaiian idolatry. If the Indians are to be taken as a basis of population in these Islands, they must be taken in their low intellectual and moral condition, and with all their revolting ceremonies. An attempt to build up a nation in these days with such material would not only be offensive to the civilized world, but would be even ludicrous. They know nothing of our political system, and would require years of careful instruction before they could understand it. As these people are protected by British laws in the exercise of their religious rites, however revolting they are, they would have to be protected here.

It may be said that these people would be "absorbed" or

“assimilated” here, and their heathenish practices would soon disappear. I do not know where the power of assimilation lies. Certainly not in the Hawaiian for it is generally admitted that he needs aid and support himself. Nor is there power in the foreign race, the European, to reconstruct the Hindoo until it has greatly increased its numbers. In the American States the great vigor of the Anglo-Saxon stock, and the large population, working through a long settled and well defined organism, has assimilated, partially, the numerous emigrants from alien states, but it has not been without danger. Here there is little conservative power, and any large influx of foreigners of one race, would in time establish a controlling influence, which would necessarily modify and even revolutionize our political institutions. Especially would this be the case if the new population received the right of suffrage, and held a majority of votes.

The character of the women who should emigrate is of the utmost importance. Now it would hardly be expected that the women of the class who do emigrate from India would be very desirable as the mothers of our future nation. Respectable women of the Hindoo class do not appear in public, excepting only those belonging to the menial class. Their religion forbids them to cross the seas, and the public exposure on shipboard would be deemed a gross act of indelicacy. The present emigration laws of India require forty women to accompany every one hundred men. It does not require that marriage should exist. The “recruiters” meet with very great difficulty in obtaining the required number of women. In several instances the law was relaxed in order to permit a large number of men to leave. The late Protector of Emigrants in India, says in his official report (1879): “The class of women willing to emigrate are young widows, married or single women who have gone astray, and are therefore most anxious to avoid their homes and conceal their antecedents.” Those familiar with Hindoo customs know that widows are outcasts, women who lead miserable lives, and are hardly tolerated in Hindoo society. I asked the present Protector of Emigrants how many women out of the forty who emigrated

were decent or respectable women. He said "hardly ten." While a few women do accompany their husbands, the larger number are recruited as single women, brought down to the depots and turned loose with the men, and herd together like cattle. It would hardly be possible to predict a very brilliant future for a population coming from such women.

It appears, also, by the official reports in India, that next to the Hindoos, the Mohammedens rank next in numbers as emigrants. While their religious ceremonies are not as revolting as those of the Hindoos, they are objectionable to us, inasmuch as polygamy is a strong feature in their social life. Besides this they are aggressive in their tendencies, and might as they are well united, make a dangerous element in the State. I repeatedly asked this question of Europeans who have long resided in India, "If a better class of Hindoos and Mohammedens should be willing to emigrate to a foreign country, and they were frankly told that idol worship and polygamy would not be tolerated in the countries to which they proposed to go, what would be the effect?" I was told in reply that "hardly one person would emigrate." No doubt they might be seduced or trapped into emigrating; but any desirable scheme of populating the Islands must start with giving the proposed emigrant a correct statement of the political and social condition of the country which invites them. It is well known that the most extravagant inducements are now held out to invite emigration, one of the most common being that the coolie can marry a white woman with a large fortune.

In addition to the above statements, I desire to copy an extract from a document presented to the Governor in Chief of Jamaica, and by him submitted to the Imperial Government in England, being a part of the memorial of the North Cornwall Association of Baptist Churches in the Island of Jamaica, representing sixteen congregations, numbering about 12,000 persons. It says: "Your memorialists have repeatedly expressed and published their concurrence with the opinion of the Hon. C. C. Bravo, that before a country can receive general material benefit from the introduction of population, the bulk of the individuals emigrating to that country

“must have one or the other of the following qualifications:
 “*religious and moral education, industry, energy, enterprise,*
 “*manufacturing skill, educated intelligence, or money capital,* and
 “your memorialists positively affirm that the coolies who have
 “been introduced year after year into these Islands do not
 “fulfill any one of these important conditions.” These men
 were not speculating on what the coolie may be. They are
 men who are face to face with the coolie laborer. It would
 hardly be wise to cast aside this positive testimony, especially
 as it comes from men who from a religious standpoint have no
 selfish ends to serve.

As you have not defined the term “population,” in your instructions; I have allowed myself some latitude in discussing the question. The standard by which the moral, intellectual, and physical character of the proposed population is to be determined has not been fixed. The geographical position of the Islands will place its population between two immense, energetic, and relentless civilizations, the American and the Chinese. It would be a political blunder to initiate the growth of a new people here, which cannot hold their own in every way against these forces pushing hard from the East and the West. No nation came out of barbarism with less friction than the Hawaiian, no people ever received such tender care from the fierce, powerful and often brutal races which now mainly rule the world. But in spite of giving it the best political wisdom of the world, and in spite of the most intelligent Christian attention and watchfulness the race feels itself in a hard struggle for existence. To put beside this race another that cannot hold its own, would be to sin against light, and would involve those who did it in a gross blunder. Only those should become the basis of population here, who are, or may become capable of fronting and standing effectually before the stronger races which are now here. With this standard before us, and after reviewing the facts bearing on the East Indian emigration, I do not hesitate to report that the East Indians are not suitable or desirable as emigrants.

THE JAPANESE.

The Japanese are not an emigrating race. Although Japan is nearer to California than China, and the Japanese not only have none of the prejudices against foreigners which the Chinese have ; but also have a great admiration and respect for them, there is still no disposition to venture into California, or other States in large numbers. Nor is it from want of knowledge of the opportunities offered in foreign countries. The high rates of wages paid in California, and in Australia are well known to them. The people make no effort to emigrate. Japan is not over-populated, only one-tenth of the soil is under cultivation. On the island of Yezzo are vast tracts of land lying idle. There is a Colonial Department in the Japanese Government, and considerable inducements are offered to people living in the more crowded parts to move upon these waste lands ; but, so far, there has been little success in getting emigrants. The Japanese are not a thrifty people. In spite of the fine climate and rich soil they are poor. No doubt that political conditions have had much to do with their poverty ; but it still remains that they are not a thriving people, in spite of the great resources of the country. Dr. J. C. Hepburn, now and for many years a resident missionary in Yokohama, and the author of the English Japanese dictionary, told me that he preferred and employed Chinese labor. He said that there were industrious Japanese, but as a rule they were not ; that the people were content with rice and fish, and did not show the energy of Chinese. My own observation showed me that the Chinese were entering the country, and were showing themselves superior to the natives in the business of merchandizing. No doubt as gardeners the Japanese rank high. I do not say the laborers would not meet the wishes of our planters, but I believe they are not equal to laborers from other races. Morality is low throughout Japan, and perhaps much lower than in China or the East Indies. White observers describe it as very low. I do not believe that their opinions are altogether trustworthy. The last census returns in Japan show that the males outnumber

ber the females by about five thousand. It is impossible to fortell what a well-organized scheme for immigration to these Islands might accomplish. While the opinions of foreigners resident in Japan is against it, and the high officials of the Empire, though not opposed to it, believe it cannot succeed, it is still possible that with great care, energy, tact, a considerable number of emigrants might be obtained. But it must be remembered that there is really little more pressure on the Japanese to leave Japan, than there is upon Hawaiians to leave these Islands and emigrate to Peru. If a Japanese wishes to obtain land he can get it. His motive for going abroad would not be that which comes from great need, but rather the desire to get money rapidly and return home to spend it. According to the official report of Consul General Van Buren the average rate of wages paid to the agricultural laborer is \$4.50 per month.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

Under the present circumstances I will not consider this branch of the subject, but will, hereafter, make a separate report upon it.

MALAY IMMIGRATION.

Singapore, at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula, affords the best advantages for studying this branch of the subject. In 1819 this place was a village, but it has since become a colony of about 140,000 inhabitants. It has afforded the Malay race every chance to show its character, both as regards labor, and fitness for civilized society. The people of that race meet at this place, coming from the Peninsula country on the north and the great Islands on the south and west. Up to the present time this race has made no mark in the colony. Every opportunity has been given it to make a permanent settlement there, but it has neither the thrift or energy to establish itself as a social, financial, or political force. In the colony the "Klings" from India take its place as farmers, while the Malays do some business as petty traders, and make good servants in the care of horses; as a rule they

give way to the Chinese in all occupations requiring thrifty habits and steady industry. Throughout the Malay Peninsula, in Java and Sumatra, laborers are needed, but the Malays do not supply the demand. The Maharajah of Johore, one of the Malay States adjoining Singapore, has lately undertaken to cultivate coffee and gambier. He informed me that his own people were too idle and thriftless to be depended upon, and he was therefore looking to China and the East Indies for laborers. It was in part in behalf of this sovereign, that the Governor of Singapore made application to the colonial office for Indian coolies, and was refused. It is well known that the Dutch authorities will not permit emigration from their own vast possessions. There is a vast amount of land lying idle in the countries inhabited by the Malays. If the people of this race will not build themselves up in communities while under the protection of the British flag, or will not supply the labor demand in their own States, it would be idle for us to hope that they might become valuable laborers or citizens of these Islands. *If the planters of the Malay States are looking to India and China for laborers, it is idle for us to be looking to the same Malay States for our laborers.*

PORTUGUESE IMMIGRATION.

I will not consider the character of the Portuguese emigrant, for the Hawaiian planters have already had full opportunities to judge of the fitness of this race, both as regards labor and population. While in Lisbon I obtained much information regarding the emigrants from the Island of St. Michaels. Mr. Seemam, Vice-Consul for the United States, came especially from that Island to meet His Majesty, and as he has acted for some time as the agent of Mr. Hoffnung of London, in procuring emigrants, his knowledge was accurate and interesting. The number of people on the Island is about 160,000. For several, I think five years, the orange has failed owing to a blight upon the trees. Besides this the increasing orange crop of the Mediterranean has brought about low prices, consequently the people are in distress, and are now willing to leave their homes. As a rule they prefer to go to Brazil. They like its climate and their friends are there. But they

cannot pay the passage money, and the Brazillian planters are not in need of laborers at present. The payment of passage by the Hawaiian Government is the inducement to enter on a long voyage to these Islands. While the inhabitants hear favorable reports from their friends here, I do not think they would be greatly disposed to follow them, if they could find labor nearer home. Limitations upon the number of children retards this emigration. Married men only can leave freely. The unmarried only after a term of military service. The long contract system of labor is not popular. It looks to them like a species of slavery. But they accept it. Probably a superior class to that now emigrating would leave if there was more freedom allowed in making labor contracts on arrival here. The Portuguese Government is encouraging emigration to its settlements on the African coast. At the present moment a large immigration may be obtained from the island of St. Michaels and elsewhere ; but it may be terminated instantly by order of the Portuguese Government. The emigration laws of Portugal are very strict, and any vigorous enforcement of them would embarrass the immigration. It is most desirable that arrangements be made as quickly as possible with a view to placing this business on a more satisfactory foundation. If these Portuguese are desirable it is of the utmost importance that as many as possible be obtained at once, and before unforeseen events shall stop them from immigrating. The fact that no treaty exists between this country and Portugal ; that the emigration laws of that country, if enforced, might abruptly terminate emigration ; that this Kingdom is at present entirely dependent upon this immigration for laborers who bring women with them ; that the Government has no representative there, of high diplomatic standing, who is able to meet emergencies which may arise, either from the Portuguese authorities or from the emigrants themselves ; that the whole business is in the hands of contractors, who may abandon it any moment if interfered with ; and that every possible precaution should be adopted to forestall any difficulties, urge me to impress upon the Government the necessity of sending some competent person, without delay, to that country for the purpose of estab-

lishing permanent diplomatic relations, and at the same time of putting the immigration business on a more satisfactory basis. Other and important reasons I have communicated directly to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

GENERAL EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION.

While in England and on the continent I investigated this subject, and came to the conclusion that immigrants could be obtained from several of the countries of Northern Europe. Generally the Germans, the Scandinavians and the English laborers prefer to emigrate to those countries which are already settled by their own countrymen. But there is in every nation a considerable class who desire change of some kind, and will always be attracted to the tropical countries. This class can be reached by our agents. Whether these immigrants could be retained in the country, after immigration, is a very serious question. The high wages paid on the Pacific Coast will tempt the Northern Europeans away, while the Portuguese would not be disposed to leave.

There are in Europe large numbers of artisans, tradesmen, and manufacturers, who have not been very successful in business, or are restless in disposition, or believe that in some distant country they will be sure to prosper. Many of these made application to His Majesty, and also to me, requesting, in nearly every instance, that money should be furnished them for payment of passage, and promises be made securing them "lucrative offices" on arrival here. I discouraged this kind of immigration.

I believe it will be difficult, if not impossible to bring into these Islands many of the best emigrants belonging to the best races. The United States, Canada, Australia and South America offer to the most desirable emigrants that which they desire and will have, the homestead. The emigrant wishes land, and a fee simple tenure. Nothing is so repulsive to him as a tenancy. While these other countries are offering great inducements to emigrants in the way of abundant and rich lands, at very moderate prices, these Islands, or this Kingdom is offering nothing but "contract labor." We shall obtain only those who cannot pay their way to the countries which offer them just what

they want. It becomes a serious matter in considering the future of this Kingdom, that while there is now a population of about 60,000 only, and while it is estimated that a population of over 700,000 may be comfortably supported here, there is little or no public land, or land which is subject to immediate entry and occupation by emigrants. I have no doubt that this fact will greatly influence the social and political condition of the Kingdom in the future.

On the subject of the immigration of women only, with a view of supplying the deficiency of Hawaiian women, I report that it is not possible, at present, to obtain women for that purpose. In Japan, there is now a deficiency of women. China does not furnish what is needed. In the East Indies, they cannot be got, for reasons which I have already given. In the Malay countries, it would be impossible to induce them to leave. They are Mohammedan, by religion, and will not forsake the people of their own faith. Even in the most enlightened countries, single women though in want and misery, at home, seldom emigrate. There are a few instances when such women, in considerable numbers, have left home for new countries, but in these cases it was only to reach the people of a kindred race. It would hardly be expected that ignorant women, without knowledge of the existence of these Islands, their people, customs and language, would abandon relatives and friends to enter a distant and foreign State to unite in marriage with men of whom they know nothing.

In view of the fact that the foreign races in this Kingdom owe important duties to the Hawaiian race; that every means should be adopted to preserve, strengthen and increase it; that the political institutions of the country should be so preserved or modified as to secure its integrity and perpetuity, I strongly recommend that, in introducing immigrants, great care be taken to exclude an adventurous, restless, idle or criminal class, which would be the first to crowd upon, abuse and injure the Hawaiian people, and in the end seriously jeopardize their rights.

The foregoing report is respectfully submitted

WM. N. ARMSTRONG,

Commissioner of Immigration.

Dated Honolulu, November 7th, 1881.

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